

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3523

INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZILIA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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USEC BRUSSELS 093

USMTN DEL GENEVA

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DEPARTMENT PASS STR AMB DENT AND YEUTTER FROM WOLFF

PASS COMMERCE FOR POLANSKY

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA (WOOLFF, ALAN AND ASCHER, BERNARD), ETRD JA

SUBJECT: FOOTWEAR CONSULTATIONS

1. SUMMARY: COMPLETED INTENSIVE SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS WITH ROK OFFICIALS ON SHOE IMPORT PROBLEM. ROK OFFICIALS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE LIMITATIONS ON FOOTWEAR THAT COULD RESULT FROM AFFIRMATIVE ITC FINDING, INTERESTED IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH USG. THEY WILL CONTACT USG DURING NOVEMBER AFTER CTEIR CONSULTATIONS WITH KOREAN FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY ON POTENTIAL IMPACT OF POSSIBLE LIMITATIONS FOLLOWING ITC DETERMINATION. FURTHER ROK-USG DISCUSSIONS EXPECTED. END SUMMARY.

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2. ROK OFFICIALS APPRECIATED VISIT TO ADVISE OF

POSSIBLE FORTHCOMING PROBLEM. LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH PARK PIL-SOO, ASST. MIN. FOR COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, AS WELL AS WITH VICE MINISTER CHOI KAK KYU OF ECONOMIC PLANNING BOARD (SENIOR ECONOMIC OFFICIAL UNDER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER). OTHER KEY DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH NOH CHIN SKIK (MCI) AND SHIN CHUNG SUP, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE (MFA, DEPUTY TO KIM DONG WHIE). CHULSU KIN ALSO HELPFUL. OTHERS SEEN WERE LEE EUN-TAE (MCI), SUN KI LEE (ASST. MIN, EPB), SOON KYUN HONG, KIM JONG HEE (MCI), AND HWA - JUNE TCHOL (EPB). FOREIGN MINISTER KIM AND ASST. MIN. KIM DONG WHIE ABROAD SO UNAVAILABLE FOR CURRENT ROUND OF TALKS.

3. VICE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND OTHERS EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE LIMITS ON NEW GROWING INDUSTRY AT TIME OF BOP DEFICIT AND FURTHER BOP PRESSURES FROM OIL PRICE HIKE.

4. IN SEPARATE MEETINGS ROK OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ROK FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY, NOW SIXTH LEADING SUPPLIER OF US MARKET. EACH INDICATED ROK NOT CAUSE OF US IMPORT PROBLEM, OTHER ROK INDUSTRIES SUBJECT TO LIMITATION OR POSSIBLE LIMITATION OF SHIPMENTS (TEXTILES, FLATWEAR, SPECIALTY STEEL, MUSHROOMS, WORK GLOVES). ROK ALREADY VOLUNTARILY RESTRAINING EXPORTS RUBBER FOOTWEAR.

5. TALKS FRANK AND CORDIAL THROUGHOUT. ROK AWARE OF PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS OF US FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY AS WELL AS GROC INTEREST IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE SAFEGUARD CLAUSE PROTECTING AGAINST NEW ENTRANTS IN ANY NEGOTIATED ARRANGEMENT RESULTING FROM ITC CASE.

6. ROK OFFICIALS MOST CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF HISTORICAL BASIS FOR QUOTA BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS ADVERSE TO NEW ENTRANTS. REQUEST USG SEEK MEANS OF MINIMIZING IMPACT ON FRIENDLY, DEVELOPING NATION WHICH THEY SAY COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON US ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SUPPORT.

7. SEVERAL EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SEEMING MOVEMENT OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TOWARD PROTECTIONISM, CITED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PETROLEUM IMPORT DIFFICULTIES RELIANCE ON US ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

8. ROK OFFICIALS APPRECIATED VISIT TO ADVISE OF POSSIBLE FORTHCOMING PROBLEM, RECOGNIZED VULNERABILITY OF NEW ENTRANTS, AND STATED INTENTION TO PRESENT THEIR IDEAS TO USG INFORMALLY THROUGH EMBASSY IN SEOUL OR ROK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. FURTHER DISCUSSIONS EXPECTED.

CONSULTATION TEAM APPRECIATED GREATLY FULL ASSISTANCE
OF EMBASSY.
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Message Attributes

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